



Local Weather

Friday

Saturday

Sunday







Hi 78°
Lo 59°

Hi 69°
Lo 54°

Hi 57°
Lo 32°

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Lady Bears
Named to
All Tournament
Team
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THE BRACKEN COUNTY NEWS

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Mamma Mia! Here They Go Again!

Pictured left to right in front are McKenna Williams, Kaylee Williams, Isabelle Straathof, Anna Bond, Jessica Mains, Marley Golden, Iisa Mattila and Emily Graham. In back are Bella Spencer, Lillyanne Curtis, Brooklyn Curtis, Audrey Cooper, Briar Planck, Cedric Cooper, Alley Barnett and MacKenzie Schwed.

The Bracken County Polar Players will present the beloved musical *Mamma Mia!* this weekend at Taylor Elementary School. The production is filled with familiar ABBA tunes that will make your toes tap and take you back to the 1970s and 80s. The premiere is at 6:30 pm this Friday, March 14, 6:30 pm on Saturday, March 15 and 2 pm on Sunday, March 16.

Drama Coach Anna Baker is proud of the dedication of the young actors who have practiced the songs and choreography, despite the interruptions by the storms earlier in the year.

Cost is \$10 for adults and \$8 for children. It is recommended for ages 13+ due to some mature themes. Refreshments can be purchased during the intermission.

Come support the talented cast who have worked hard to bring this production full of music, love and fun to life. It is a high-energy show filled with iconic ABBA hits, laughter and unforgettable moments.

2025-2026 Kentucky Fishing and Hunting Licenses Available

Licenses and permits are available now to fish, hunt and trap in Kentucky in the coming license year through February 28 of next year. In Kentucky, a license covers basic hunting or fishing for many species, whereas additional state permits are required when pursuing specific other species, such as fishing for trout or hunting for migratory birds, deer, wild turkey or black bear.

For the 2025-2026 license year, prices for four **non-resident options** reflect a moderate fee increase, including:

Annual Hunting License - \$160, Spring Turkey Permit - \$110, Fall Turkey Permit - \$110, and Deer Permit - \$235. The resident **Senior Lifetime Sportsman's License** remains priced at \$180, available to Kentucky residents aged 65 and older, or purchase an annual **Senior Sportsman's License** that provides the same licenses and permits for the license year for just \$12. Resident anglers have the option to purchase an annual **Fishing License** for \$23 or a 3-year Fishing License for added convenience and value at just \$55.

Licenses and permits are sold online through Kentucky Fish and Wildlife's website License Sales portal, searchable off the homepage at fw.ky.gov. Licenses and permits also are sold at agent locations across the state. A list of license agents by county is available on the department's website.

Springtime provides many opportunities to take someone new into the field. Youth turkey weekend is April 5-6, while the main turkey season opens a week later, on April 12. The

Youth Sportsman's License, available to residents ages 12-15, is a great value at \$30 and covers turkey hunting and deer hunting.

To learn all the basics on hunting and fishing, the Kentucky Fish and Wildlife website (fw.ky.gov) has many resources for individuals new to the sports. For more information about hunting and fishing opportunities in Kentucky, visit the department website at fw.ky.gov. For questions, call 1-800-858-1549, 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. (ET) weekdays, excluding holidays.

submitted

The Benchmark Inn in Augusta Holds “Grand Re-Opening” this Saturday

Brian and Missy Jimison, new owners of The Benchmark Inn in Augusta, known for many years as the Parkview Inn, will hold their “Grand Re-Opening” at 3:30 pm this Saturday, March 15. The public is invited to meet the new owners, tour the updated spaces, enjoy light refreshments and enter to win a free stay at the luxurious establishment.

The building has had a long history. It was constructed in 1930, severely damaged by fire in 1960 and used for storage. The story of the building's restoration and rebirth as The Lamplighter Inn was detailed in the book *The Inn of a Thousand Days: A Memoir of a Country B&B* by Alan Tongret.

The Benchmark Inn has comfortable rooms for your out of town visitors to relax in. Besides the main reception room, there is a lounge on the ground floor where guests can unwind. The inn has eleven inviting rooms, including the new handicap-accessible Beehive Room, and the Lamplighter Suite that includes a kitchen, bath, living area and bedroom.

Brian and Missy reside in Russellville, OH, where Brian is a surveyor and Missy is a real estate photographer. They plan to partner with community businesses to enhance local events and have already been welcoming visitors to our area. While the Benchmark Inn no longer contains a restaurant, organizations or parties who book events there can hire caterers to provide meals in the meeting/event room in the former dining room.

Come this Saturday to welcome Brian and Missy and view the comfortable and beautiful rooms in Augusta's historic inn.

The Augusta/Bracken County Tourism office has released the dates of upcoming events in Augusta. “Flamingo Spring Fling” Day will open the 2025 season from 11 am to 4 pm on Saturday, April 26. Flamingo-themed items and foods will be offered by local businesses and eateries.

Those whose hearts start racing when they see a yard sale sign will go wild for Junkfest on Saturday, May 3. Vendors offering vintage, antique and unique items will line the streets of Augusta from 10 am to 4 pm. You never know what you'll find!

A name change has been made to the Augusta Riverfest Days. It will now be known as the Augusta, Kentucky Riverfest Fair, and will be held Thursday - Sunday, July 17-20. There will still be the same music, sterno-wheelers, baby and beauty pageants, vendors and fun for the whole family, but now the beauty pageant winners will be eligible for other county fairs and the Kentucky State Fair competition. In addition, the organizers are planning a Floral Hall exhibit, with more information to be provided in the future.

Invite your out-of-town family and friends to visit on these special days. Shops, vendors and local attractions will be open for local residents and guests to experience warm Bracken County hospitality.